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A Whole New Flow Coming to Elm-Kenosha Intersection

Broken Arrow motorists will soon see changes at the busy Elm-Kenosha intersection. City crews have been relocating water lines south of the intersection in preparation for a widening project, which will be partnered with the expansion of Elm to five lanes south from Kenosha to Houston.

Crews will create two left turn lanes, a dedicated right turn lane and two through lanes across the entire intersection. These improvements will greatly help to improve traffic flow through the heart of Broken Arrow.

Work is anticipated to begin in February and the project should be completed in late 2007.

The "crooked intersection" in one of the highest traffic flow areas of Broken Arrow has long been frustrating for motorists, as the north-south lanes of Elm Place do not flow evenly into one another. Utility companies have been relocating lines in the area for the past few months, and right-of-way acquisition has been an ongoing project by the City for several months.

Major improvements have already been made a mile north of Kenosha at Albany and Elm Place, leading into the First Baptist Church property and later to the Stone Wood Hills development area.



HOP-
ING TO
FIND HIM A
HOME -- Broken
Arrow Mayor Richard
Carter (far left) joins Animal
Control Supervisor Scott Reno (center) and Animal
Control Officer Lanny Dampf as they give some attention
to one of the dogs at the City's Animal Shelter. The white
German Shepherd is in need of a new home, as are many
other dogs and cats at the facility.

Holiday Displays Light Up Park

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Broken Arrow. More than 10,000 holiday lights are now twinkling on the trees and bridges in Central Park. This year, animated displays include a fishing Santa and a waving snowman. The lights will be displayed from dusk until midnight through Jan. 1st. Visitors to the park may walk the displays or drive through, as all are visible from the roads passing through the park.

Central Park is located at 1500 S. Main, across from

Veteran's Park. The displays are located north of the Community Center.

Their Job Is Going To The Dogs.... And They Love It!

By Mayor Richard Carter

We first met "Animal Control" in Broken Arrow in 1976 when our dog Gomez escaped our yard to seek romance in the neighborhood. For his misdeeds, Gomez was caught by the City's lone "dog catcher" and unceremoniously jailed in a multi-compartment cage in the back of a pickup truck, where he languished for a day until we paid his fine.

Things have really changed in thirty years! BA's population is nearly seven times larger, and Animal Control now has six employees, three patrol trucks, and a permanent facility housing up to forty-five dogs and thirty-five cats. That's all needed to handle the nearly thirty-five hundred dogs, cats, and occasional horse, rooster, rabbit, or ferret brought in yearly.

Once an animal is brought in, it is kept for a minimum of five days, and if it is tagged with contact information, the owner is notified. Of all those, about fifty percent are claimed by their owners or adopted. Unfortunately, after about seven days, overcrowding requires that euthanasia be performed on the half that are not claimed or adopted.

Animal Control Officer (ACO) Nathan Underwood says the most unusual critters he has been called upon to deal with are pet wolves, a coyote trapped in a swimming pool, a python on a car engine, and a three foot long monitor lizard that could run on its hind legs only and outrun a human (It got away). He and other ACO's Lanny Dampf and Marcus Walker routinely deal with possums, skunks, raccoons, bats, and deer in addition to common household pets. And, while Underwood did capture a large and very irate bobcat recently, they haven't located the elusive Stonewood Hills Alligator.

"Adoption of the animals is a good way to obtain a pet," says Supervisor Scott Reno, "but a person should make an informed decision when adopting." He says an interested person should visit the Shelter, which is open Monday through Saturday from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., view the available animals, and select one that is right for that person. Reno advises, "Study the breed, consider the size it will be when grown, and think about how it would fit in with its potential home." The prospective owner needs to provide valid identification and pass a background check. Starting in January, the prospective pet will be given an exam by a veterinarian, spayed or neutered, and given basic shots, all for a fee of \$50.00. "We couldn't operate as well without our volunteers and donated food," Reno said. "We have four Shelter volunteers, plus eight local veterinarians who donate their services to treat our animals. Wal-Mart, Target, and Southern Agriculture donate nearly all the food used."

Shelter Officer Sara Gunderson and Administrative Technician Louse Dickey agree that the best part of their jobs is being able to return animals to their owners. I found that all the Animal Shelter staff have a love for animals, and really want to see each of their furry residents returned to their owners or find a good home. For location of the Shelter and more information, call 259-8311.

Bridge Repairs Close Road

The bridge on Tucson Street (121st Street South) between Olive Street and Aspen Avenue has been closed for repair. The road was closed Nov. 28 and work is expected to continue for several weeks.

A routine inspection of the bridge found that immediate repairs were needed to maintain the top level of quality and safety required by the state and the City of Broken Arrow.

"We ask for the patience of our citizens during this process," says Assistant City Manager Dave Wooden. "We realize it will cause a temporary inconvenience, but safety is our top concern."

During the bridge work, motorists may use nearby Florence Street (111th

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New Gym, Nienhuis Projects Nearing Completion

Little by little, piece by piece, the master plan projects for Nienhuis Park are becoming a reality.

The next major project due for completion is the gymnasium, which joins the Nienhuis Community Center. The Center was the only facility at the park for the past two years until the youth football complex opened there this past summer.

Scott Esmond, Director of Parks & Recreation, says that the gymnasium should open in late February or early March. Parking for both the gym and the center is available on the north side.

Just east of the gymnasium construction continues on the aquatic facility, which is similar to the Family Aquatic Center in Central Park. The new pool will be open to the public this summer.

These are all Vision 2025 projects.

Nienhuis Park is located at 3201 N. 9th, or midway between Albany and Omaha on the east side of Lynn Lane. Immediately to the right of the entrance to the park construction is underway on the City's sixth fire station -- one designed to provide quicker response to emergency calls in this ever-growing segment of the community.

The Nienhuis Gymnasium will feature two courts for basketball, volleyball, pickle ball and dodgeball, along with other activities.

Claudia Dyer, Supervisor of Recreation for the City, said that the new swimming pool is due to open on Memorial Day weekend in 2007 and will include a large "Zero" level entry, two large slides, two jun-



NEARING COMPLETION -- The new gymnasium at Nienhuis Park is getting closer and closer to completion. The photo here shows the front of the building, which faces north and joins the Nienhuis Park Community Center (to its right, or west).

ior slides, an "AquaPlay" area inside and many more features.

This will give the City three large swimming pools, including the facility at Country Aire Park, which was rebuilt and opened two years ago. There are also five splash pads open in City parks and more on the way.

For information on the facilities at Nienhuis, call the park office at 355-0287.

A Healthier You

Make Healthy Choices that fit into your lifestyle. Provided for Focus by Jaime M. McCullough, Nutrition Education Coordinator of BA Public Schools.

Be Realistic: Make small changes over time. Changes in what you eat and increasing the level of activity you do make a big difference over time. Small steps work better than giant leaps.

Be Adventurous: Expand your tastes. Include more and different types of fruits & vegetables. Enjoy a variety of foods.

Find Balance: Balance what you eat and what you do over several days. Don't focus so much on one meal or one day.

Connecting to Community Calendar Easier

The Community Calendar on the City's website and TV 24 is available for listings of events in Broken Arrow. Getting information listed is easy. There is now a link from the Home Page of the City's website (www.brokenarrowok.gov) to the Community Calendar. Click on most events and you'll get complete information on time, place, cost, etc. There is also a link to an e-mail form to send information on your events!



LEGENDS IN EDUCATION -- Members of the BA Youth City Council learned from the masters Nov. 27 when they met with "Living Legends" in education. Seated (from left) were Max Smith, Dr. Clarence Oliver, Dr. Gary Gerber and City Councilman Wade McCaleb. YCC members (standing, from left) were Kyle Trice, Lyubomira Popov, Ashleigh McCormick, Hope Whitson, Caleb Griffin, Sarah Seing and Eric White. The meeting was held at City Hall.

Community Calendar

The events listed on the Focus "Community Calendar" are those turned in before press time, which is the last week of each month. Because the utility bills and Focus newsletters are mailed out in four weekly cycles each month, some of the events listed will have already been completed.

Dec. 15, 16 and 17 -- Bethany Free Will Baptist Church Presents 10th Annual Living Christmas Tree. Four performances: Dec. 15, 16 and 17. Time: 7 p.m. on Dec. 15 and 16 and 3 p.m. matinees Dec. 16 and 17 (Saturday and Sunday). Longest running production of its kind in the Tulsa area. The 2006 event will be a true Holiday Homecoming, with many of previous performers who have made it a favorite over the past decade returning for a reunion. Doors will open 45 minutes prior to each performance. Popular pianist Carson Wagner will entertain early arrivers with special holiday selections. Bethany Free Will Baptist Church, 100 N. Olive. Cost: \$5 (all general admission). Call Bethany at 252-5585 or come by the church Welcome Center between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Dec. 16 -- 2nd Annual Gift Give-Away by Broken Arrow Assembly, 200 E. Broadway. Starting at 7 p.m. Free turkey and dressing dinners. No admission charge and no offerings will be taken. A Christmas gift will be given to children through 12 years of age. Door prizes, live entertainment.

Dec. 18 -- Chamber of Commerce "Buy Broken Arrow" drawing for cash prizes of \$10,000; \$3,000; and \$2,000. Drawing will start at 3 p.m. at the Chamber office and you do not have to be present to win. Lucky numbers will be posted in participating stores and by area media.

Jan. 3 -- Annual Chamber of Commerce Installation of Officers noon forum. Buffet lunch starts at 11:30 a.m. at Indian Springs Country Club, followed by installation of officers for the new year.

Teens Hear from 'Legends'

In the second of the Youth City Council's "Living Legends" programs, the teens heard from three key leaders from the past and present of Broken Arrow Public Schools in a Nov. 27 meeting at City Hall.

Former BAPS Superintendent Dr. Clarence Oliver joined Max Smith and Dr. Gary Gerber in a presentation to the YCC members which included the history of the district as well as some of the current challenges and accomplishments. Smith is a former School Board member and president, as well as a long-time BA High School principal. Dr. Gerber is Assistant Superintendent for Operations.

The first program featured former BA Mayors. The "Living Legends" were added by City Councilman Wade McCaleb to the YCC program.

Bridge....

(Continued from Page One)

Street South) or Jasper Street (131st Street South) as alternate routes. The bridge, which crosses Aspen Creek, was recently acquired from Tulsa County by annexation.

City engineers estimate the entire project could last 90-120 days.